(c) As per information furnished by the National Institute of Open Schooling (NIOS), the Institute develops self-learning material in each subject for its learners based on the curriculum. In Shorthand and Typewriting, the self-learning lessons are printed in a single volume covering complete curriculum which is sufficient for learning all concepts included in the curriculum.

The NIOS develops its own curriculum in all subjects. The study material is developed by team of subject experts in self-learning mode. NIOS does not prescribe the books written by CBSE/NCERT etc.

Glorification of Sati

2731. SHRI R.K. ANAND: Will the Minister of HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that the Rajasthan Government had brought out a book on the Glorification of Sati violating the provisions of the Sati (Prevention) Act, 1987; and

(b) if so, Government's reaction thereto?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT (SHRIMATI KANTI SINGH): (a) and (b) As per the information made available to the Ministry of Human Resource Development, Department of Women and Child Development, the Government of Rajasthan has denied that the practice of sati has been glorified in its official publication.

Education cess for primary education

2732. DR. P.C. ALEXANDER: Will the Minister of HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether any amount has been specifically set apart from out of the education cess fund for financing primary education during the current financial year;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether Government are considering to utilize the education cess fund for the secondary education sector also; and

(d) if so, whether the basic objective of improving the quality and spread of primary education would suffer for want of finances?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT (SHRI MD. ALI ASHRAF FATMI): (a) and (b) With the imposition of the Education Cess it became possible to increase BE 2005-06, for Elementary Education by Rs. 6492 crore over BE 2004-05.

(c) No, Sir.

(d) Does not arise.

ACP benefit to Nursery Teachers

2733. SHRI VARINDER SINGH BAJWA: Will the Minister of HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is mandatory for Nursery Teachers, who possess Nursery Teachers Training (NTT) to do B.Ed. for the purpose of getting Assured Career Progression in Delhi;

(b) if so, since when this policy has been adopted; and

(c) if not, the reasons for which such Nursery Teachers have been denied the benefit of Assured Career Progression?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT (SHRI MD. ALI ASHRAF FATMI): (a) to (c) Government of NCT of Delhi has informed that in respect of Nursery Teachers the condition of acquiring higher qualification *i.e.* B.Ed. for grant of ACP is not mandatory. Municipal Corporation of Delhi (MCD) have informed that they have not implemented Assured Career Progression (ACP) Scheme for their teachers. New Delhi Municipal Council (NDMC) has informed that it is mandatory for Nursery Teachers to have B.Ed. for the purpose of getting ACP. NDMC have adopted this policy since 12.07.2004. Government of NCT of Delhi and NDMC have intimated that no Nursery Teacher has been denied the benefit of ACP.